

Chicopee Register

Contestants compete for grandest honor

Colleen and her Court to be named Saturday

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

In merely three days, 20 young women will compete for the opportunity to become the 2020 Chicopee Grand Colleen. The annual contest will kick-off at 6:30 p.m. Saturday evening at the Castle of the Knights on Memorial Drive.

Over the course of several hours, the 2020 Chicopee Colleen Contest and Coronation Ball will occur. As a result, five young women will be chosen to represent the Chicopee St. Patrick's Parade Committee on a float during the upcoming Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The winner, the Grand Colleen, will lead the group during a series of public engagements scheduled throughout the year. Each participant has already completed an interview with judges; on Feb. 22, the court and Grand Colleen will be determined.

"It's also an opportunity for the girls to do some public speaking, to present themselves, to walk on stage. It's also an educational opportunity to learn about Irish culture," said Mary Rodowicz, representing the parade committee.

All 20 of the participants come from different backgrounds. Despite the theme, the young women do not have to hail from Irish backgrounds.



From left are Chicopee Colleen contestants Makayla Hammon, Tatyana Santiago, Taylor Gawron, Makenzie Hernandez, Karoline Klaus and Meghan Kalbaugh. This year's Colleen and her Court will be named Saturday, Feb. 22 at the Colleen Contest and Coronation Ball.

Participants will be representing Chicopee High School, Chicopee Comprehensive High School, American International College, Bay Path University and Springfield Technical Community College. This year's contestants are:

Ava Baron, 18, Chicopee Comprehensive High School; Melissa Carson, 17, Chicopee Comprehensive High School; Julianna DeGray, 17, Chicopee Comprehensive High School; Lillian Doherty, 20,

See COLLEEN page 16



Colleen contestants (from left) Ava Baron, Caitlin Mogilka, Hannah Provost, Kimberlee Harrington and Sophie Warren pose for the camera. Chicopee's Colleen and her Court will be named Feb. 22 at the Castle of Knights.



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Departments ready for battle

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Some word fun for staycations

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Pacers fall to Ludlow Lions

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EDUCATION

Chicopee awarded funding for arts in schools

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

Chicopee residents with an affinity for the arts scored a victory on Feb. 12. The Massachusetts Cultural Council awarded the city \$22,000 in grant funding through the fiscal 2020 Stars Residency Award; the money will be divided between both parochial and public schools.

The award will support "three-day plus in-school residencies in the arts, sciences and humanities," as was noted during a release from the office of state Sen. Eric Lesser (D-Longmeadow). Lesser

teamed up with Sen. James Welch (D-West Springfield), Rep. Thomas Petrolati (D-Ludlow) and Rep. Joseph Wagner (D-Chicopee) to bring the funding back to Chicopee.

Bellamy Middle School, Fairview Veterans Memorial Elementary School, Litwin Elementary School and Streiber Memorial Elementary School will split \$17,000 to fund the "From Page to Stage" program. The program includes "comprehensive literacy through the Arts for a school residency in arts integration for Grade 4 classrooms."

Maya Rivera, an educator representing Enchanted Circle

Theatre, will lead the sessions. St. Joan of Arc School and St. George's School will share \$3,800, which will help facilitate the Readers Theatre school residency program.

Lambert Lavoie Elementary School will receive \$1,400, which will be used to support the Bucket Drumming Residency, a residency in percussion with Community Music School of Springfield.

"I think it's important because it's for our children. I know that many people have made a distinction between public schools, private schools, charter schools etc. and the diversification of funding that

may trigger, but in the end we're doing it for our kids and our futures," said Johnny Miranda, chairman of the Chicopee Cultural Council.

Miranda thanked the state officials who helped earn Chicopee the funding but gave the majority of his credit to the regular citizens who campaign for a greater emphasis to be placed on a sustained commitment to arts and culture in the city's schools.

"Most importantly, it's the community of people that revolve around this issue that push for it and advocate day-

See AWARD page 5

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Chicopee Register

Bellamy students hungry for education

Funding gap closed at Riverfronts

Will raise a flag in neighborhood

School Committee seat remains vacant

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Badges to battle for a community cause

Annual fundraising hockey game to face-off March 7

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

In less than three weeks, Chicopee’s safety personnel will compete for bragging rights on the ice of the Fitzpatrick Arena at 575 Maple St. in Holyoke. Proceeds from the upcoming “Battle of the Badges,” an annual hockey match between members of the Chicopee Police and Fire departments, will benefit numerous causes.

“It’s all about team effort going forward with that outreach and giving a little back to the community from us. The majority of us are citizens in the city we work for and are employed by. That’s really our goal; to create a community event driven by employees that work and live in the city,” said Officer Chris Galindo of the Chicopee Police Department.

The exhibition will occur at 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 7. Admittance is free to children 12-years-old; tickets will otherwise cost \$10 per person. Fifty percent of proceeds will benefit the Chicopee Boys & Girls Club.

“Of all the individual people, businesses, entities and programs that are within the city of Chicopee, there’s no other one that does more for the community and the youth than the Chicopee Boys & Girls Club,” said Galindo.

Chicopee police officers and firefighters are excited to face off on the ice. In the past, the Police Department has dominated the series. Firefighter



FILE PHOTO

Members of the Chicopee Police and Fire departments face-off at Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield last year for the annual ‘Battle of the Badges’ hockey game. This year’s game is set for March 7 at Fitzpatrick Arena in Holyoke, with proceeds supporting the Chicopee Boys & Girls Club.

er John James is optimistic that next month’s scrimmage will be more evenly matched.

“This year, I think we have more

edge than we did last year,” said James. “We have better recruits and hope to bring better competition. If we can’t pull a win, at least we’ll pull the gap tight. At the end

of the day, it’s all for fun, and we have a great time.”

Twenty-five percent of the game’s proceeds will go towards the creation of a scholarship fund for Chicopee Comprehensive and Chicopee High school students. The remaining funds will be used to construct a memorial in remembrance of a local first responder.

“We have another 25 percent going to [a memorial for] Anthony Spano, a fallen Chicopee Fire Fighter, who passed away on March 30, 2017,” said James. “He was a 14-year veteran of the Chicopee Fire Department; 25 percent of the proceeds will go towards building a memorial at Station 5 down off Chicopee Street in the Willimansett Center.”

Tickets may be purchased at the rink on the day of the event or at the Public Safety Complex located on Church Street. They can also be purchased at the Boys & Girls Club on Meadow Street.

For more information, Galindo can be reached at 413-592-6341; James can be reached at 413-218-6679. Both men are anticipating a fast-paced March 7 showcase; the art of playing hockey has built synergy between members of both departments.

“Hockey’s a great sport; great exercise,” said Galindo. “Over the past three years, the number of guys that had never before stepped foot on the ice, bought full equipment and have shown up every Friday for our practices for the exercise and to hang out with everybody; that goes to show [the rink is] a good place to be around people and after a shift let some stress out.”

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STCC celebrates Black History Month with events

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College announced several events as part of its celebration of February being Black History Month.

The next event, titled “Make it Count!” will take place Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 12:15 p.m. in the Student Learning Commons. The fun, informational function will provide opportunities for on-site voter registration, music and information on how participants can make their vote

count this election season.

The following day, Thursday, Feb. 27, folks are invited to the Student Learning Commons for an artist talk and closing reception at 10 a.m. Artist-in-residence Kiayani Douglas will discuss her exhibit “Fallacies of a Black Enthusiast” that is on display now through Feb. 29 at the Amy H. Carberry Art Gallery. Refreshments will be served.

All are invited to the free events. For more information, visit stcc.edu.

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Elms College to host annual ‘Black Issues Summit’

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion at the College of Our Lady of the Elms will host its third annual Black Issues Summit in celebration of Black History Month from noon to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28, in the Alumnae Library.

The year’s summit will bring regional leaders and social justice advocates to Elms College for an important dialogue on this year’s theme of “Housing, Health and Education: Basic Human Rights.”

“The purpose of the Black Issues Summit is to provide an opportunity for meaningful dialogue about pertinent issues affecting the Black community,” said Harry E. Dumay, president of Elms College. “We are honored to have Denise Jordan, Savina Martin, Frank Robinson, and Yves Salomon-Fernández as guest speakers this year in addition to the artwork of Ryan Murray.”

The summit is open to anyone interested in the issues of social justice, equal-

ity, and diversity.

The event will feature the following speaker:

Denise R. Jordan, a native of Springfield, is a graduate of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, and holds a master’s degree in Human Resource Development. She is currently executive director of the Springfield Housing Authority, the third largest authority in the commonwealth. In 2008, Jordan became the city of Springfield’s first African-American chief of staff and was the person with the longest tenure to ever occupy the seat, serving over 10 years.

Savina J. Martin, is a minister and has spent three decades advocating on behalf of issues and symptoms related to poverty and homelessness, particularly black homeless veterans and nonveteran women. She is currently one of three state chairs with the Massachusetts Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for

Moran Revival. Martin has served as president of the Boston Chapter of Union of the Homeless and as the executive director of the Women’s Institute for New Growth & Support, whose house for homeless women in recovery from substance abuse is named in her honor.

Frank Robinson, vice president of public health for Baystate Health, is responsible for helping to bridge health-care gaps caused by social determinants of health. Robinson’s innovations aimed at addressing community drivers or structural drivers of health, such as racism, include the Baystate Springfield Educational Partnership and the Baystate Academy Charter Public School.

Yves Salomon-Fernández, is president of Greenfield Community College. She previously served as president of Cumberland County College in New Jersey and interim president of Massachusetts Bay Community College. She

has served as a reviewer for the National Science Foundation and John Hopkins University Press. Salomon-Fernández is a member of the Federal Reserve of Boston’s Community Advisory Development Council and a Corporator for Greenfield Cooperative Bank. She also serves on the Board of Mass Humanities and the Opioids Task Force of Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region.

The Black Issue Summit will also feature the artwork of local artist Ryan Murray.

Registration will begin at noon, and presentations will begin at 1 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided. Following the summit, attendees are invited to participate in a debriefing session to provide feedback and thoughts on the issues discussed.

Advance registration is required. Visit www.elms.edu/summit to register. Email diversity@elms.edu for more information.

Stop & Shop collecting for diabetes research this month

Stop & Shop, a neighborhood grocer for more than 100 years, is announcing the kick-off of its annual campaign with JDRF, the leading global organization funding type 1 diabetes research.

Now through March 1, customers in Western Massachusetts will have the opportunity to support JDRF’s research efforts by donating at the register.

Currently, more than 1.25 million Americans live with type 1 diabetes, an autoimmune disease that occurs when a person’s pancreas stops producing insulin. It cannot be prevented, and, at present, there is no cure.

Customers across the store’s market area, including Chicopee, may donate \$1, \$3, \$5 – or round up to the next dollar – when they check out at the register at their neighborhood Stop & Shop. The chain operates a store at 672 Memorial Drive.

Customers may also join associates participating in the campaign by proudly wearing stickers that say, “I’m the _____ Type,” detailing the strength, resilience and courage of those living with type 1 diabetes – and highlighting the notion that people are not defined by their diagnosis.

Lori Landers-Carvalho to run for Register of Probate seat

EAST LONGMEADOW – Attorney Lori Landers-Carvalho recently announced her candidacy for Register of Probate in Hampden County. Landers-Carvalho, a resident of East Longmeadow and life-long resident of Hampden County, has worked for nearly 16 years in the Registry of Probate, helping thousands of people who were representing themselves to work through the system and paperwork.

“I went to law school here, established my first practice here, and I’ve been working for my entire career at various levels serving the people of Hampden County who find themselves in the Probate and Family Court,” said Landers-Carvalho. “I’m also bilingual in English and Spanish, which enables me to work and connect directly with the large majority of the residents of Hampden County.”

Landers-Carvalho, an independent, is currently assistant Register of Probate. Suzanne Seguin, Register of Probate since 2012, is not running for re-election.

Register of Probate is an elected position, but it is a position with little political power. Landers-Carvalho said that’s

as it should be.

“As Register of Probate, I will not have any law-making or regulatory power. I will have a sworn responsibility to keep accurate records that comply with the law, and to serve the public in assuring that the Registry of Probate continues to be a reliable and accessible legal resource for the community.”

The Registry of Probate is the legal records office that deals with wills, estates after somebody dies, guardianship of minors cases, guardianship of incapacitated persons, complaints filed in equity, and adoption petitions. The Probate and Family Court addresses issues including whether or not there is a valid will and who may be entitled to any property the deceased person has left behind. The Probate and Family Court also covers family issues including divorce, establishment of paternity of children born to never-married parents, child custody, and abuse prevention orders.

“Sue entrusted me with this important role, and I am prepared to assume the role of Register of Probate if the people elect me to the position come November.”

Municipal zoning tracker offers insight into cannabis developments

WORCESTER – The Cannabis Control Commission recently launched a new webpage to help license applicants, cities and towns, and the public identify the status of adult-use cannabis zoning and related policies across the commonwealth’s 351 cities and towns.

Now available at MassCannabisControl.Com/MunicipalTracker, the Commission’s database will enable constituents to quickly search whether a location might have passed planning or zoning that pertains to adult-use cannabis, if a license cap might be in place, or if a full or partial ban may prevent the siting of marijuana establishments there.

With the introduction of new Commission license types at the end of 2019, the public also will be able to follow the municipalities that authorize home delivery in their community or participate in a future pilot program to support the state’s first social consumption establishments.

“By compiling the status of adult-use cannabis across Massachusetts in one central location, the Commission has furthered its commitment to implementing a regulated industry that is transparent and accessible to a wide range of stakeholders,” Commissioner Kay Doyle said. “This resource will provide local leaders with a basis to share information around planning and zoning best practices, sim-

plify license applicants’ search for a host municipality, and keep the public up-to-date about the progress of legalization in our state.”

The Commission developed the tracker through voluntary surveys it distributed in 2018 and 2019 to municipalities statewide concerning zoning bylaws and similar issues relative to adult-use cannabis. Results were then organized into a table that identifies each city and town, the link to their official page to create direct lines of communication with the community, and the status of planning, zoning, and related decisions that impact the industry in that area.

All available data has been self-reported by the city or town but not every municipality has responded to the Commission’s survey. The page will be updated biweekly and expanded as the Commission receives new information from local officials. When applicable, certain zoning updates may be subject to review by the Attorney General’s Office. Constituents with questions about a local approval process should seek clarification from the municipality.

For more information about the Massachusetts adult-use cannabis industry, visit MassCannabisControl.Com, email Commission@CCCMAss.Com or call 774-415-0200, or follow the agency on Facebook and Twitter.

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Friends seeks president

The Friends of Chicopee Senior Citizen’s Inc. is looking for a new president and recording and corresponding secretaries. Installation of newly elected officers shall take place at the June 12 meeting.

The Friends is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the city’s older adults. The Friends are a main funding source for RiverMills and the Council on Aging. The Friends meet the second Friday of every month at 10 a.m. where fundraising and progress is discussed.

For more information about becoming a member of the Friends or to learn more about the open positions contact Friends Vice President Steve Michalik at 413-532-3544.

Therapeutic Foot Massage

The Council on Aging offers Therapeutic Foot Massages on the fourth Monday of each month beginning starting at 9:30 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging’s RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Licensed Massage Therapist Debee Boulanger of Abundant Wellness will be offering these foot massages. Choose from either CBD or an essential oil blend. The cost is \$40 for a 30 minute massage. Folks must register in advance at RiverMills. Upon registration, participants must fill out an intake form which allows Boulanger to maximize the effectiveness and safety of her services.

Yoga

The Council on Aging offers three yoga classes during the week. Chair Yoga

milling about at RIVERMILLS

is offered every Wednesday beginning at 2 p.m. and is led by Deborah Beiermeister. Monday Morning Yoga is offered every Monday starting at 11 a.m. and is led by Caitlin Lavin. Thursday Afternoon Yoga is offered every Thursday at 3 p.m. and is led by Deborah Beiermeister.

Additionally, the COA and Chicopee Parks and Recreation Department are offering yoga every Tuesday night from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.

All yoga classes cost \$3 and RiverMills Center, located at 5 West Main St. Call 534-3698 for registration and more information.

Buried in Treasure

The Council on Aging will host the “Buried in Treasures” support group on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St. This is a support group about the compulsive acquiring, saving and hoarding of objects, and people having trouble managing their possessions. To register or for more information, call 534-3698.

Facials

The Council on Aging now offers facials by licensed esthetician Diane Neill the second Wednesday of the month starting at 8:30 a.m. Neill will offer facials on the first and second Wednesday of the month at RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St. Facials start at \$30. Registration is re-

quired by calling 534-3698 or by stopping by RiverMills.

Massage Therapy

The Council on Aging now offers chair massages every Thursday and every other Friday at RiverMills Center. Chair massages are given by licensed massage therapist Michelle Zemba of Abundant Wellness. Sessions are designed to relieve stress and pain. Cost is \$15 for a 15-minute session. Registration is required by calling 534-3698 or stopping by RiverMills Center.

Meditation Class

The Council on Aging offers a meditation class Wednesday afternoons at 3:15 p.m. at RiverMills Center. Certified meditation instructor Deborah Beiermeister will lead the class, which will help participants ease stress and learn to relax. Each session will start with gentle yoga stretches, followed by relaxing breathing techniques and a gentle neck/shoulder massage. The cost is \$3.

Memorial Drive Shopping Trips

The Council on Aging’s Transportation Department continues to offer shopping trips to stores in Chicopee, to seniors 60 or older.

Van and car service to shopping and grocery stores on Memorial Drive are offered Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday making stops at Big Y, Stop & Shop, Price Rite, Job Lot, Walmart and Chicopee Plaza. There is a \$2 suggested donation. For a reservation, call 536-5733.

Additionally, the Transportation Department provides rides for medical, dental, legal, hairdresser, pharmacy, and banking appointments Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., for Chicopee’s older adults.

A \$10,000 grant from WestMass Elder Care enabled the expanded transportation service.

Volunteer Drivers Needed

The Council on Aging is looking for licensed drivers willing to volunteer a few hours a week and provide rides to Chicopee’s older adults. The city of Chicopee provides and maintains the vehicles that the drivers will be using. The volunteers provide rides for any Chicopee resident 55 years old or older. This service is for medical, dental, legal and hairdresser ap-

pointments, pharmacy pick-ups, banking and shopping, available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Interested volunteer drivers should contact the Council on Aging Transportation Department at 413-536-5733.

Cardio Mix Class

The Council on Aging will now be offering “Cardio Mix” class on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. Cost for the class is \$3.

Painting Class

The Council on Aging is offering an additional painting class on Thursdays from 1-3:30 p.m. at RiverMills. Christiane Eckert will lead the class and teach several mediums, including acrylic, pastel, oil and watercolor. She has been painting since 1992. Participants are asked to bring their own materials. A \$1 donation will be accepted at the door. RiverMills already offers a drawing and painting class every Tuesday at 1 p.m., which is taught by Maureen McDonald.

Fit for Life

Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:30 a.m. This class is an energetic class featuring an aerobic workout, along with strength, balance and flexibility elements. Suggested donation, \$2. For more information, call 534-3698.

Zumbasize Class

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Exercise Studio 117 (street level). This class is for active older adults who are looking for a modified class that recreates the original moves you love at a lower intensity. Suggested donation, \$3. For more information, call 534-3698.

Dancercize Class

Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m. Dancercize is ballet, jazz, balance & stretch put together in a class that gives us the strength and enjoyment for the body and mind. Ballet and jazz moves help tone our muscles, increase flexibility and free tension and stress. The class is taught by Diane Shields, who has been dancing herself for over 58 years and teaching for over 45 years. Apparel should be light and comfortable. Shoes should be a ballet or jazz shoe or a flexible type of tennis sneaker. Donation, \$3.

Sudoku & More Club

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. No matter what your age, everyone would like to keep his or her brain sharp. Research shows that games and puzzles work to hinder dementia, strengthen critical thinking skills and promote overall brain health. For more information or to sign-up, please call 534-3698.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Expression of disgust

4. A place to unwind

7. A type of cooking range

8. Grasp tightly

10. Sea eagles

12. Carb dish

13. Late-night host

14. Revolutions per minute

16. Indicates odd or erroneous

17. FDR's military chief of staff

19. Swiss river

20. Norwegian district and river

21. A form of motivation

25. Car mechanics group

26. Once a must-have theater accessory

27. Broken branch

29. Apple and pumpkin are two

30. Skeletal muscle

31. Small Eurasian deer

32. Tight-lipped fellow

39. Comes after a cut

41. A place one lives

42. Cognizant of

43. Albanian monetary unit

44. Carrot's partner

45. Famed garden

46. Chilean seaport

48. Days (Spanish)

49. Sudden anxiety

50. 100 square meters

51. A type of beer

52. French/Belgian river

CLUES DOWN

1. Spanish dish

2. Concurs

3. ___and her sisters

4. Patti Hearst's captors

5. Used to refer to cited works

6. A state of excited movement

8. Advertising term (abbr.)

9. Nocturnal S. American rodent

11. New York art district

14. Bravo! Bravo!

15. Pre-release viewing

18. Northwestern Canadian territory (abbr.)

19. Consumed

20. Falters

22. Radioactive form of an element

23. Catch a wrongdoer

24. Breeze through

27. Thick piece of something

28. Yellowish-brown color

29. "The Raven" poet

31. Rural free delivery (abbr.)

32. Creating

33. Supervises flying

34. Northwestern state

35. Was obligated to repay

36. Diverging in lines from a common center

37. Bleak

38. We all have them

39. Hit with the palm of one's hand

40. Sea that's part of the western Pacific

44. Political action committee

47. Famed Spanish soldier El ___



AT THE REC

OPEE Summer Adventures Staff Applications

The Chicopee Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting applications for counselor positions for the OPEE Summer Adventures program. Counselors must be at least 18-years-old or 17 if they have gone through OPEE's LIT program. The summer day program, held at Fairview Elementary School, will run seven weeks this year from June 29-Aug. 14. Staff applications may be obtained at the 687 Front St. office. For more information, contact Dan at dwoodill@chicopeema.gov.

Tang Soo Do Korean Martial Arts

The Parks and Recreation Department is offering classes in Tang Soo Do, a Korean martial art. Led by instructor, Master Jeffrey Bulissa, a fourth degree black belt in Tang Soo Do, participants will learn about self-defense, confidence and physical fitness. Classes will be held on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

The following classes are being offered: Little Dragons (ages 5 to 6): 6 to 6:30 p.m., Gups Beginners (ages 7 and up): 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Gups (Advanced) (ages 7 and up): 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Each session will consist of eight classes and run through Feb. 26.

Costs \$40/Little Dragons \$50/Gups Beginner & Advanced. All classes are held at Chicopee Parks and Rec. Department. Registration may be done at the Chicopee Parks Department 687 Front St.

Open Swim Program

The Parks Department will hold an Open Swim at the Chicopee High School Pool on Sundays from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. now through March 8 at a cost of \$3 per person. The program is open to residents only and positive identification is required at the door. All children 18-years-of-age and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Children who have not been toilet trained must have swim diapers. For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 594-3481.

Houston Astros vs. Boston Red Sox

Chicopee Parks and Recreation, in collaboration with The Travel Group, announce a trip on Friday, May 22 to see the Boston Red Sox play the Houston Astros at Fenway Park for a 7:10 p.m. game.

The package includes: roundtrip coach transportation and reserved seats in the infield grandstand (section 11, rows 11-15).

Cost is \$139 per person, and the deadline to register is Friday, April 3. There are a limited number of only 20 seats available for the trip. The bus will depart from Szot Park at a time to be determined.

To register, visit the Chicopee Parks and Recreation Department at 687 Front St. For information, call 594-3481.

Boston Red Sox vs. Chicago Cubs

The Chicopee Parks and Recreation, in collaboration with The Travel Group, would like to announce a four day getaway trip (June 18-21, 2020) to see the Boston Red Sox take on the Chicago Cubs for two games at Wrigley Field.

The trip includes: roundtrip air from Hartford to Chicago, Illinois, three nights at the Hampton Inn that includes breakfast, reserved tickets for two baseball games, a guided bus tour of Chicago and Navy Pier, and hotel room taxes.

Cost for the trip is \$1,299 (each) for a double, \$1,249 for a triple, and \$1,499 for single occupancy. A \$300 deposit is due at sign up, with full payment due by April 15, 2020.

To sign up, visit the Chicopee Parks Department, 687 Front St. For more information, call 594-3481.

Springfield Power Squadron to offer safe boating course

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Power Squadron announced its spring 2020 schedule of safe boating courses, available to the public as well as members.

All classes will begin on Wednesday, March 4 at the West Springfield Middle School, 31 Middle School Drive. Courses are held on Wednesday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. for approximately eight to 12 weeks. Students pay for text books, materials, and a national fee, if applicable. Registration can be made at the door, with payment at that time or prepay to reserve a seat.

The three scheduled courses are the ABC basic boating course, Boat Handling (normal follow-on course to ABC), and Cruise Planning. Classes are taught by experienced and knowledgeable instructors. The United States Power Squadron is a nonprofit, boating educational and social organization dedicated to making the water safer, more enjoyable for recreational boaters, and the public at large.

For more information, contact Kevin Abbey at 413-636-4804 (leave message) or via email at rav131en@aol.com.

Springfield Tech Class of '70 to hold reunion

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Technical High School Class of 1970 will hold their 50th Reunion Saturday, April 25 from 5:30 to 11:30 p.m. at Springfield Country Club, 1375 Elm St., West Springfield. Tickets are \$60 per person and must be purchased by April 10.

For more information, call Vinnie Iuliano at 508-633-5000 or email viulianosr@aol.com.

Nominations sought for annual 'ToGetHerThere Awards'

The Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts announced nominations are open for the third annual "ToGetHerThere Awards."

ToGetHerThere Awards honor Western Massachusetts professionals in the following five categories: Entrepreneur, Financial Literacy, Health & Wellness, Man Enough to Be A Girl Scout, and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

The ToGetHerThere Awards give area businesses and organi-

zations the opportunity to honor a difference maker from within their ranks who has shown exceptional achievement in their profession, is an inspiration to their co-workers and young women and have made contributions to their communities. The nominated person must signify role model behavior in their professional career and represent the Girl Scout's mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Girl Scouts of Central and West-

ern Massachusetts will honor the winners at a luncheon Friday, June 5, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Springfield Country Club.

Nomination deadline is Friday, April 10. Nomination forms and requirements may be found on the Girl Scout website, <http://www.gscwm.org/en/events/special-events/THGTA.html> or by contacting Jamie Mahon at 413-584-2602 ext. 4037 or jmahon@gscwm.org.

AWARD from page 1

to-day organizing events to make sure that our legislators support this when those items come up in discussion," said Miranda, who noted that the city has "a variety of schools with a variety of curriculums."

Introducing students to creative learning is essential, said Miranda. He noted that without the proper resources, students would be unable to "go to museums, go on field trips or even have art and music in their curriculums."

Lesser is of a similar mindset. Thanking the state's Cultural Council, he explained the importance of the funding that the city will receive.

"These residencies allow for

school-aged kids to be exposed to new and creative ways of thinking," he said. "Cultural development is economic development, and these types of classes positively impact the classroom and community."

Welch stated that he is "thrilled" that Chicopee children will gain "access to these amazing programs while offering his take on the award's significance."

"Participation in arts, humanities and science creative learning are extremely important for the development and well-being of children," he said.

Miranda noted that the accomplishment is one of progression. He said that the funding fills a "vacuum." Less money, to be distributed to

creative education, will be removed from the school budget.

"This means a step forward in continuing to validate the importance of arts and culture and history and science in our schools and in our lives. We continue to defund programs that are of scientific nature or of artistic nature," said Miranda.

"We continue to defund those programs because schools need to operate and funding needs to be distributed to other sources, but the fact that we have recognized that there are other ways through which schools can access funding makes it more efficient as an institution and as a government," he continued.

Celtic singer to perform at Irish Night fundraiser

HOLYOKE – Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish will host its Irish Night fundraiser 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Knights of Columbus, 250 Westfield Road, Holyoke.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for children.

The event includes a performance by Celtic singer-songwriter Deirdre Reilly, corned beef sandwiches for \$7, and a 50-50 raffle.

For tickets, call Sue Sullivan at 413-536-7418, or Jennie McGiverin at 413-250-2093.

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Eyes up and hands free

Beginning next week, drivers throughout the state will have even more reason to set their cellphones aside when behind the wheel.

The Massachusetts Hands-Free Driving Law will officially take effect as of Sunday, Feb. 23. From then until March 31, violators who are caught using their cellphones while driving will receive a verbal warning from law enforcement officials. As of April 1, however, those found guilty of the infraction will have a greater citation issued to them.

It is illegal in the commonwealth to compose or read texts, emails, social media, watch videos, or to use the camera function on cellular devices when behind the wheel of a vehicle.

Beginning this spring, drivers who break the new Hands-Free Driving Law will receive a fine of \$100 on their first offense. A second offense will mean an additional \$250 charge and will also require offenders to take a distracted driving education course.

A third and final offense will result in a penalty of \$500 which will be surchargeable to a driver's insurance.

Gov. Charlie Baker made Massachusetts the 21st state in the nation to prohibit drivers from using cellphones in November of 2019, nearly a decade after the state banned texting while driving in 2010.

According to statistics provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2017 a total of 3,166 fatal motor vehicle crashes occurred nationwide as a result of distracted driving.

The 2018 Commonwealth of Massachusetts Highway Safety Annual Report lists a key demographic of offenders as drivers age 35 or younger largely due to cellphone and smartphone use. In the past three years, these drivers have accounted for roughly half of all distracted drivers in a fatal crash and nearly 60 percent of all drivers in a speed-related fatal crash.

The Safe Roads Alliance, a national organization with headquarters in Massachusetts that is dedicated to providing educational services to all drivers when it comes to driving safely, is looking to prepare drivers for what they need to do with the new law entering effect.

The new law prohibits use of a cellphone or other device unless it is an emergency while allowing calls to be made in hands-free mode. Be sure that cellphones are affixed to the dashboard, center console or windshield of a vehicle. Only one touch or swipe is allowed to activate GPS or to make or receive an emergency call, as manual dialing a phone number or entering a GPS location is no longer allowed while driving.

Before you set out on your commute, program your GPS while stationary and make any calls or send text messages beforehand. Be sure to let recipients of the messages know that you will be driving and unable to answer the phone.

Many phones on the market, such as the Apple iPhone, come with functions that can be enabled to do not disturb while driving. For Android phones, the downloadable app DriveMode will also allow for features such as incoming calls to be silenced and even will send automatic responses to let callers know you are driving.

Above all else, the simplest and most effective way to prevent distracted driving mishaps is to put devices away altogether and keep your eyes, and attention, on the roadway.

GUEST COLUMN

School staycations and pun fun

February's area school vacations are here! Students, parent, aunts, uncles and grandparents may spend time with staycation students.

Some may wonder, "What's a staycation?" It's a time when instead of traveling a great distance away for vacation, the decision is made to have a "staycation." Choices are made to stay home, and to travel short trips to see local events, entertainment, and to tour nearby museums, landmarks and well-known sites.

Especially during "staycations," every family member can use lighten-up, brighten-up moments. From the youngest student to the retiree, reportedly, "humor is the best medicine."

Fun puns are words written or used in such a way that suggests two or more meanings. Some puns make wordplay by using another word with a similar sound. Adults understand the definition as a "double entendre;" two meanings resulting in a witicism or a jest.

Perhaps your days during this school staycation can go a little lighter

and brighter with several light-hearted fun puns?

Often most mornings start with breakfast table conversations while sipping tea, hot chocolate or coffee. A fun pun for the coffee drinkers:

"Coffee has bean the grounds of many a heated and strong discussion."

Even during wintry weather, sometimes discussing the evolving evidences of spring happens:

"After winter, the trees are relieved."

Other times, fruit-related chatter somehow manages to conclude how generations raise children differently:

"You know the problem with grapes these days. People just aren't raisin' them right."

Often during "staycations," students visit the dentist's office and their family member may remind them: "Dentists have their own floss-ify on how to keep teeth clean."

And, as students get warmly dressed and pile into cars, from first-hand experiences, we all know that getting to places on time during "staycations" can be chal-

lenging: "Why did the man stand on a clock? He really wanted to be on time."

Perchance some parents and students are environmentally inclined and are planning a sunny day trip to a well-known nursery to learn more about the various bushes, blossoms and pollination cycles. Maybe this observation will bring a smile:

"When I bought some fruit trees the nursery owner gave me some insect to help with the pollination. They were free bees."

And, during school February vacations, high school students may work extra part-time job shifts. Except for the teenage employee who stopped working with food:

"The early morning, part-time job of making doughnuts was over because the employee got fed up with the hole business."

Laughter, chuckles, grins and often simple silliness brings heart-lightened joy. Light humor can be therapeutic. May "Pun Prescriptions" become a merry-heart-medicine remedying school staycation days and bringing enjoyable pun fun.



Joan E. B. Coombs

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

The Chicopee Register welcomes submissions of news in or related to Chicopee and its residents. Our "People News," is filled with submitted engagement announcements, wedding announcements, birth announcements, your new baby or news about your 25th or 50th anniversary celebrations. Please e-mail correspondence along with a photo to chicopeeregister@turley.com or send it to: Chicopee Register, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Chicopee Register

The *Chicopee Register* is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

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The Chicopee Register is published by
Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com



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Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, per-

sonal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: *The Chicopee Register*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Ask Rusty – About warnings to make sure I ‘file properly’

By Russell Gloor
Guest Columnist

Dear Rusty: I am currently 63-years-old and planning to delay retirement until 70 to maximize my benefit. I’ve been seeing a lot of financial planners advertising claims that you can lose thousands of dollars in benefits if you don’t “file properly.” Is there really anything more to it than simply applying for benefits when you are ready to retire? Do I really need to pay a financial advisor just to tell me how to apply to get the most benefits? Signed: Skeptical

Dear Skeptical: Nearly all the advertisements you see using language like that have an underlying purpose of trying to sell you something – usually a book, a subscription, or financial services. The phrase “losing thousands if you don’t file properly” are very generic words meant to lure you into contacting them so they can sell something to you. Reality is that “filing properly” means simply choosing

the right age to file for benefits given your specific personal circumstances. And personal circumstances are different for everyone. There aren’t any tricks in the filing process itself – it’s really quite straightforward, and you can get all your Social Security filing questions answered here at The AMAC Foundation’s Social Security Advisory Service. Our staff of Social Security advisers are fully trained and certified by the National Social Security Association, and we have years of experience on this complex topic. We provide Social Security information and answers to several thousand people each year, without a fee because we are a not-for-profit entity operating only on donations. And contacting us is easy at either ssadvisor@amac-foundation.org, or 888-750-2622.

As for when you should file, everyone’s personal situation is different, and your marital status should always be considered. But as an individual, waiting until age 70 will give you the maximum benefit

available to you. If you are now 63, your age 70 benefit will be 29.3 percent more than it would be at your full retirement age of 66 years and 4 months, and about 65 percent more than you’d get at age 64. And provided you are in good health and expect at least average longevity (about 84) not only will your monthly payment be more, but you’ll collect more in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting. And here’s an extra bonus – if you are married and you predecease your wife, her survivor benefit will be based upon that larger amount you were receiving because you delayed claiming. If she has reached her full retirement age, as your widow your wife will get 100 percent of your actual benefit. But if you were to claim earlier, your wife’s survivor benefit would be based on that smaller amount.

The answer to your specific question is that there is no magical way to apply for benefits once you determine the age at which you wish to file. You can file by

calling the Social Security Administration directly, either at their general number (800-772-1213) or your local office (find it at www.ssa.gov/locator), or you can also file online at www.ssa.gov/retire. Filing online is by far the easiest and most efficient way to complete and submit your application for benefits.

Russell Gloor is a certified Social Security adviser through the Association of Mature American Citizens. This column is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Learn fly tying at MassWildlife office

BELCHERTOWN – Those looking to learn the basics of fly tying are invited to get hooked on a new hobby later this month through the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife at its Connecticut Valley District Office, 341 East St., Belchertown.

The Beginner Fly Tying class will take place over the course of two sessions, Tuesday, Feb. 25 and Thursday, Feb. 27

from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The class is open to beginners only, 15-years-of-age or older, interested in learning the basics of tying their own flies in a free, hands-on course. Advance registration is required.

For more information or to register, contact Angler Education Coordinator Jim Lagacy at 508-389-6309 or jim.lagacy@mass.gov.

Dog Show and Vendor Fair set for Saturday

The Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor a Dog Show and Pet Vendor Fair from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, in the Holyoke High School gymnasium at 500 Beech St., Holyoke.

Admission for spectators is free. Owners may enter their dogs in up to two categories of competition for \$5 per entry.

Categories include celebrity look-alike, dog and owner look-alike, best

smile, best dog trick, best dressed, fastest tail wagger, fluffiest, pooch that can smooch, most obedient, best groomed, and best in show. Prizes and ribbons will be awarded to the winners, and goodie bags will be given to all canine participants.

To register for the competition, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 413-322-5620, or visit the office at City Hall, 536 Dwight St., Holyoke.



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HCC Foundation opens 2020-21 scholarship season

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Community College Foundation is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2020-2021 academic year.

More than \$200,000 in awards is available for incoming, continuing and transferring HCC students.

The application deadline is Wednesday, March 25, 2020.

Students must be currently enrolled at HCC or have been accepted for the upcoming academic year to be eligible for scholarships, which are awarded through the HCC Foundation, HCC’s nonprofit fundraising corporation.

Applicants need only fill out a single online

form to be automatically matched with the scholarships they are most qualified to receive. There are scholarships for new students, current students and students transferring to other institutions, scholarships based on financial need, scholarships for student in specific majors, scholarships for residents of certain communities, and scholarships that recognize academic achievement.

To begin the application process, go to www.hcc.edu/scholarships.

Questions should be directed to the HCC Foundation office at 413-552-2182 or Donahue 170 on the HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

Scholarship available through Ad Club for high school seniors

SPRINGFIELD – The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts Scholarship Committee announces scholarship applications are now available online at adclubwm.org.

Applications will also be available through guidance department at high schools in Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties, or by contacting the Ad Club at 413-342-0533.

Western Massachusetts seniors who plan to attend an accredited college or technical school to study advertising communications, marketing or graphic arts and will be attending in September 2020 are encouraged to apply. The scholarship must be applied against tuition and fees at the school. Candidates will be judged on academic performance, extracurricular activities, community service and/or work experience, a demonstrated interest in advertising, communications, marketing or graphic design, personal recommendations, and a letter of introduction outlining future plans.

In 2020, one \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded. Completed applications and all support materials must be submitted to the Ad Club and postmarked by Friday, March 31.

Holyoke Library to look at science of ice cream

HOLYOKE – Children aged 8-12 are invited to learn about the science of ice cream, and how to make their own, at a Holyoke Public Library event this month. Children’s Library Assistant Charlie Pope will lead this STEM Week event 1-2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22.

Participation is free but supplies are limited, so advance registration is required at cpope@holyoke-library.org or in person at the Children’s Room desk. For more information, call 413-420-8105. The library is at 250 Chestnut St., Holyoke.

DA’s Office showcases internet safety

By Donna K. Conroy
Special to the Register

Antonio Simmons, director of community safety and outreach for the Hampden District Attorney’s Office, and Gina Anselmo, community safety and outreach specialist, brought a group of high school students to Lambert Lavoie Elementary School to present an “Internet and Real World Safety” program.

The high school students were from Chicopee Comprehensive, East Longmeadow, Minnechaug Regional, and Wilbraham & Monson Academy high schools. The program targeted grade 2 and 3 students.

The teenagers could relate to the students who use the internet for homework, jokes and fun. Brayden Chartier, grade 2, shared that “I Like to look at pictures of otters on the internet.” All the students discussed popular internet games such as “Roblox” and “Minecraft.” The term Netiquette was defined as not being rude or mean online. The students participated in an interactive video that reinforced the “Netiquette Rules,” and encouraged students to, “Use Your Netsmartz!”

The high school students repeated the four rules they wanted the elementary students to remember. They are: Tell a trusted adult if you see anything that makes you sad, scared, or confused; don’t share your name, address, or phone number without asking a trusted adult; you should not meet people from the internet face-to-face; and use good netiquette and don’t be rude or mean online. Finally, the students were given internet and real world safety scenarios to discuss.

The high school program encompasses more than presentations



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lambert Lavoie Elementary School students had the opportunity to learn internet safety through the Hampden District Attorney’s Office and high-schoolers from Chicopee Comp, East Longmeadow, Minnechaug Regional and Wilbraham & Monson Academy. Pictured (back row from left) are Joy Burke, Gaby Bartolomei, Griffin Polverini, Arielle Alovidor, Riley Wojciak, Shane Appiah, Madelyn MacKenzie, Norah Omar and Antonio Simmons. Second row (from left) are Gina Anselmo, Kayleigh Dion, Ava Baron and Bella Demosthenous. Front center is Nicholas Dubois.

to elementary schools. Norah Omar, from Wilbraham & Monson Academy, was excited to participate in this program because she likes to take initiative in the community.

“I enjoy meeting other high school students. It’s great to help younger children, and reach out to parents to promote knowledge and awareness of social media use.”

Arielle Alovidor, from East Longmeadow High School, shared, “This program is a wonderful opportunity to work with fellow students and further our initiatives and discuss our concerns of what is happen-

ing in our community.”

Each grade 2 and 3 student received an Internet Safety Certificate. Sophia Rodriguez stated, “I liked listening to the high school kids because they told us the things we should know about the internet and real world safety.”

Tristen Murphy added “I liked how we took the quiz. We listened and answered questions.”

Brayden Riley summed up the presentation: “Tell a trusted adult if you’re not sure about what to do, and don’t go with anyone you don’t know.”

FACES AND PLACES

URI announces Dean’s List

KINGSTON, R.I. – The University of Rhode Island announced more than 6,000 undergraduates qualified for the fall 2019 Dean’s List.

From Chicopee are Michael Baran, Hailey Chapdelaine, Madi Hartling and Alexandra Czarniecki.

To be included on the Dean’s List, students must have completed 12 or more

credits during a semester for letter grades with at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 credits with a 3.30 quality point average. The list includes students who have not yet declared their majors as well as those from all of the University’s undergraduate academic courses.

WPI names fall Dean’s List

WORCESTER – Worcester Polytechnic Institute recently announced the Dean’s List for the fall 2019 semester. Chicopee’s Tanner Gauthier, of the Class of 2020, majoring in mechanical engineering, achieved the honor.

WPI defines the Dean’s List by the amount of work completed at the “A” level in courses and projects, as it does not compute a grade point average for its students. A total of 1,678 undergraduates achieved the Dean’s List honor.

Laura Bertrand named to Emerson Dean’s List

BOSTON – Laura Bertrand, of Chicopee, has been named to the fall Dean’s List at Emerson College. Bertrand, a member of the Class of 2022, is majoring in theater and

performance.

To qualify for the Dean’s List at Emerson College, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.70 or higher.

Western New England names Dean’s List students

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University congratulates more than 730 students named to the fall 2019 Dean’s List.

From Chicopee are Isabella Rebecca Dyruteyev, Alexia M. Vincelette, Katarina S. Bernash, Isaiah M. Bottesini, Ashley Bonilla, Aurora S. Vaznis, Arriana Ewa Hasiuk, Lukasz A. Soja, Tomasz

Niewinski, Maherah Zaheer Shaikh, Matthew T. Ramcke, Breanna Lee Lowery, Zainab F. Anasiry, Tuan M. Nguyen, Julie M. Miner, Gehrig R. Burnett, Emily Noel Rockwal, Victoria Zyskowski, Julie A. Carestia, Maxon C. Rivera, Alecia D. Ces-troni, Dalya Al-Bayati, Julia Sudol, Evan A. Hebert, and Brittany Elizabeth Pietskowski.

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HOCKEY

Lions step up, take win on Senior Night

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD— During the first six minutes of the third period, Ludlow went from trailing by a goal against Fay Division rival Chicopee to taking a two-goal lead.

The Lions managed to hold onto its lead during the final nine minutes of the match and they celebrated a 4-2 senior night victory over the Pacers at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield, last Saturday.

“We just went out there at the start of the third period and played as hard as we could,” said Ludlow senior Betinho Terrinca, a varsity player since he was a freshman. “We really wanted to celebrate a win on senior night. It’s one of the highlights of our season.”

Overall, Terrinca has been playing his favorite sport at different levels for more than 14 years. He was selected to the Western Mass. first-team All-Star squad as a junior.

“I just love playing hockey for this team during the past couple of years,” Terrinca said. “Everyone on the team really cares about you. It’s been a rebuilding season for us this year.”

Terrinca is a co-captain along with senior Joshua Dagenais, who’s a school choice student from Monson. Dagenais is also a four-year member of the varsity hockey team.

“We always try our best in every game that we’ve played,” Dagenais said. “I decided to transfer to Ludlow when I was in middle school because they don’t have a hockey team at Monson High School. I’m really going to miss playing hockey for this team next year.”

Ludlow and Chicopee formed a co-op in boys’ lacrosse a couple of years ago. Dagenais was a member of the Pacers lacrosse team last spring.

Sedona Wika was the other Ludlow senior, who was recognized before the start of last Sat-



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Goalie Dylan Rooney watches the puck off the Ludlow player’s stick.

urday’s game. She’s normally a member of the Lions J.V. team, but she played in her first varsity game against the Pacers.

The Lions had a 3-14-1 overall record and a 2-8 league record following the comeback victory. Their other two victories this season came against Mount Everett (7-5), and Chicopee Comp (4-2). They also tied St. Joseph’s Prep of Boston.

The Pacers (9-7-3, 4-3-3) had already locked up a berth in the Western Mass. Division 3A tournament.

“We’ve already qualified for the tournament, so the outcome of this game really doesn’t mean very much,” said Chicopee head coach Al Styckiewicz. “It was Ludlow’s senior night and they just played better than we did tonight.”

See **HOCKEY** page 11



Tyler Bielecki skates hard up the ice for the Pacers.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Pacers give Falcons run, but fall in league finale

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The five Minnechaug seniors girls varsity basketball roster have accomplished something during the 2019-20 campaign that can only be tied in the coming years.

The Lady Falcons captured the Valley Wheel League title for the fourth consecutive year by squeaking out a 57-52 road victory over league rival Chicopee last Tuesday night, Feb 11.

“The seniors have now won the league title during the past four years, which is awesome. It was one of our team goals before the start of the regular season,” said first-year Minnechaug head coach Tony Giuggio. “We’re a senior laden team this year, but teams like Chicopee have a lot of talented younger players. It’ll make winning the league title again next year very challenging for us.”

Giuggio joined the Minnechaug coaching staff as a varsity assistant coach when the five seniors were freshmen, so he has also been a part of the last four league championship teams. He replaced Jay Fenlason as the Lady Falcons varsity coach.

Minnechaug had a 14-2 overall record and a perfect 7-0 league record following the road win against the Lady Pacers. They won the first meeting of the regular season against the Lady Pacers at home by the final score of 63-54 on Jan. 21.

Last Tuesday’s loss spoiled the Chicopee senior night.

The two Lady Pacers seniors, who were recognized before the start of the game, are Averie Gatzounas, who’s a

See **BASKETBALL** page 11

MIAA

Western Mass. tournament important to athletic directors, coaches

Editor’s note: This is the final article of a four-part series to break down the statewide tournament proposal, what it is, its effect on the Western Mass. region, the challenges, and how your athletic directors and coaches feel about it.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

REGION — One representative from each of the 380

MIAA member high schools will be voting on the new statewide tournament proposal on Feb. 28 at Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School located in Marlborough.

Several Western Mass. athletic directors and coaches have expressed their concerns about the new plan. At the top of the list is how the new statewide tournament will impact the future of the Western Mass. tournaments.

“I think the Tournament Management Committee has done a tremendous job of putting together this proposal and they’ve done their research,” said Ludlow Athletic Director Tim Brillo. “The biggest concern in this area is making sure that we can maintain the Western Mass. Championships. I’m hoping we’ll still be able to do that.”

If the new tournament plan does pass on the Feb. 28, a Western Mass. tournament could still

possibly be held during the final week of the regular season in each team sport.

“It might be like how the NCAA does it now in basketball,” added Brillo, who’s currently a member of the MIAA Board of Directors. “They hold a conference tournament prior to the start of the NCAA tournament. I’m really hoping that we can do the same type of thing with all of our sports. Changes are always scary and difficult.”

At its January meeting, the Board of Directors voted 14-3 in favor of the statewide tournament proposal.

Brillo isn’t really sure what the outcome of the vote will be on Feb. 28.

If the new statewide plan is approved, it will go into effect at the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Currently the winner of

See **TOURNEY** page 11

Pacers take down rival Colts



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Caroline Pycko takes a three-point attempt.

CHICOPEE – With a big offensive explosion in the first half, the Chicopee High School girls basketball team defeated cross-city rival Chicopee Comp 77-41 last Friday evening. Nicole Rodriguez had 21 points while Ella Florence had 18 points and Yami Matos added 17 points. Comp was led by Juliana Beaulieu with 16 points.



Ella Florence reaches out for a shot.



Averie Gatzounas passes the ball away from the sideline.



Adriana Correa-Berly makes a shot for the Colts.



Kass Guerrero takes the layup.



Yami Matos makes a layup attempt.

Tigers reach tournament with win over Colts

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE — It might've taken an extra week to achieve, but the South Hadley Tigers will be one of the high school hockey teams from Western Massachusetts competing in this year's Division 3A tournament, which begins next week.

The Tigers clinched a postseason berth for the second year in a row by dispatching Fay Division rival Chicopee Comp, 5-1, at Fitzpatrick Arena in Holyoke, last Saturday afternoon.

"It did take us an extra week to qualify for the postseason tournament, which I'm not very happy about," said South Hadley head coach Larry Camus. "The pressure is off of us now and we need to continue playing well in our final two regular season games."

The Tigers, who lost to Easthampton in a quarterfinal game a year ago, only held a 2-1 lead against Comp until the final three minutes of the fourth period. That's when they pulled away by scoring three goals.

The victory improved South Hadley's overall season record to 10-7-1 and they had a 5-4 league record.

The Tigers, who had lost their previous two matches, were slated to wrap-up league play against Chicopee on President's Day. They then closed out the regular season by playing a non-league match versus Southwick on Wednesday night.

The Colts (6-11-2, 1-7-1) won't be playing a postseason tournament game for the second consecutive year. They played very well during the first 42 minutes against the Tigers.

"We were able to hang in there against a very good South Hadley squad until the final three minutes," said Comp first-year head coach Brett DiClementi. "My guys played very hard and we were hoping to win another game today. We're a young team and we've come a long way since the start of the year. The future does look very bright for us."

Comp's seniors are: Colby Spear, Johnny Lewis, Josh King, and Tanner Fournier. The foursome took photos with their family members and the coaching staff in a ceremony held prior to the opening faceoff.

"Our four seniors are great kids and they're outstanding team leaders," DiClementi added. "They've worked very hard in every game this season and we're going to really miss them a lot next year."

The only South Had-

ley senior is Mike Mazza.

Chicopee Comp, along with Chicopee High School and Belchertown, are the only three Division 3A hockey teams in Massachusetts that do not co-op with another high school.

Comp did manage to keep the match scoreless for the first eight minutes of the opening period.

The Tigers, who co-op with Granby High School, broke the ice at the 8:17 mark when a shot attempt by junior Thenis Tsilibocos sailed into the net past freshman goalie Zack Canavan (15 saves), who made his first varsity start. Zack's older brother, Victor, who's a sophomore, is normally the Colts goalie, but he was on a class trip to Spain.

"This wasn't the first time that Zack played in a varsity hockey game, but it was his first start as a goalie," DiClementi said. "Victor is normally our starting goalie, but he's away on a class trip. I thought Zack played a great game today and I'm very proud of him."

The goal by Tsilibocos, which was assisted by junior Ryan Tucker and freshman Nate Loughman, was the only one scored by either team during the first period.

The Colts did have two power-play opportunities during the first five minutes of the second period. They had two shots on goal by sophomore Nick Farrell and another one by sophomore Dylan Seymour, but the score remained 1-0.

The duo of Tsilibocos and Tucker hooked up for South Hadley's second goal, which came at the 6:15 mark. This time, Tucker scored the goal and Tsilibocos was credited with the assist.

South Hadley junior goalie Anthony Cigal (19 saves) shutout bid came to an end with 1:18 left in the second period following a backhanded goal by sophomore Danny Stefanik.

Both King and Farrell were awarded the assists.

"Anthony did bail us out many times in today's game," Camus said. "He only allowed one goal, but made a total of 19 saves."

The Colts had several chances to score the tying goal during the first nine minutes of the third period.

With 2:54 remaining in regulation, junior Matt Brunelle scored an unassisted goal for the Tigers.

A goal by sophomore Joe Meon, which was assisted by Mazza, 35 seconds later gave South Hadley a comfortable 4-1 lead.

Tucker closed out the scoring in the game with his second goal with 1:35 left in the match. It was assisted by sophomore Joe Cigal.

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HOCKEY from page 9

The Pacers fans weren't very pleased with how the two referees called the game, especially during the third period where things almost got out of control in the stands.

A total of four Chicopee players were sent to the penalty box during that period alone. Overall, the Pacers were called for a total of eight penalties during the course of the game. None of the Lions players were sent to the box.

A goal by Ludlow sophomore Brandon Gomes at 1:22 of the third period tied the score for the second time at 2-2. It was assisted by freshmen Samuel Cocchi and Ben Corbin.

The Lions took the lead for the first time four minutes later on a tip in goal by Gomes. The duo of Cocchi and Corbin were also credited with the assist on the go-ahead goal.

A power-play goal 16 seconds later by freshman Josh Grandfield, which was assisted by freshman Nolan Wikar gave the Lions a 4-2 lead.

"We just dominated tonight's game, especially during the third period," Cocchi said. "We really wanted to win this game for our seniors because it's senior night. They've been the leaders of our team this year."

The Pacers did take a 1-0 lead at 4:25 of the first period on a short-handed goal by sophomore Trevor Poirier. It was as-



PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM

Trevor Poirier reaches out to take possession of the loose puck near the corner.

sisted by freshman Tyler Bielecki.

Cocchi netted the equalizer at 10:42 of the opening period. Gomes was credited with the assist.

"I was just in the right position on that goal," Cocchi said. "We do have a young team with a lot of talent. We should be a much better team during the next couple of years."

The Pacers retook the lead at 11:58 of the second period on a tip in by junior Ethan Kapinos.

Senior's Austin Scott and Alex Assab were given the assists on the Pacers go-ahead goal.

The Lions would take full control of the match during the first six minutes of the third period.

TOURNEY from page 9

each Division of the Western Mass. tournaments faces the winning team of the Central Mass. tournament in the state semifinals. The winner of that contest plays the Eastern Mass. champion in the state finals.

"There are some inequities on how a team currently gets into the tournament," Brillo said. "There is a seeding inequity and there is a difference in number of games played, especially in Eastern Mass., to get to the state finals."

Under the new statewide plan, the top 32 teams in each Division will be ranked by Maxpreps and they'll automatically qualify for the postseason tournament. All of the other teams that finish with a .500 or better record will also qualify for the tournament. The teams will be put in four brackets similar to the NCAA basketball tournament.

The finals of the Western Mass. girls and boys basketball tournaments are currently held at the historic Curry Hicks Cage located on the UMass-Amherst campus. It's the one place all of the varsity basketball players from Western Mass. dreams about playing a game at that special venue.

"All of our basketball teams have really enjoyed the experience of playing at the Cage in the past," said Ware boys varsity basketball coach Gene Rich. "It would be nice if we're able to keep the Western Mass. tournament. You could play one of your rivals in the tournament. I would hate to break up something that works."

Rich is also the Principal at Ware High School.

All of the Western Mass. tournaments are run by the PVIAC.

Lou Conte is the PVIAC Executive Secretary and Jeff Boudway is the PVIAC Administrative Assistant.

"The PVIAC has done a great job and it has been commended many times by the MIAA for the way it conducts business in this part of the state," Rich said. "They do the tournament seedings and make the tournament schedules for each sport."

The Central Mass. basketball tournament is normally held at the Harrington Auditorium located on the W.P.I. campus in Worcester. A longtime Central Mass. girls varsity basketball coach always says that playing a tournament game at W.P.I. is

like going to Disney World for his players.

The Clark Tournament, which is held during the February school vacation week, is another popular basketball tournament in Central Massachusetts.

All of the high schools will have to insert their win and loss records to Maxpreps in order for the new system to be successful.

The first and second finishers in almost every league also currently qualify for the postseason tournament, but that will no longer take place under the new plan.

Minnechaug Regional High School Athletic Director Michael Roy said he would like to see more clarity on the way Maxpreps will choose rankings.

"They have not really clarified the format Maxpreps will use to judge the games," said Roy. "That makes it hard to judge this tournament proposal."

The South Hadley girls basketball team will finish the regular season with a below .500 overall record, but they still clinched a berth in the Western Mass. Division 3 tournament by finishing in second place in the Suburban League.

While Brillo is the Athletic Director of a large high school that currently competes at the Division 1 and 2 levels, Rich coach's basketball at a smaller high school that competes at the Division 4 level in most sports.

"It might be a struggle for a smaller high schools like us," said Rich. "Financially, it could put a little bit of a burden on our athletic budget if we're forced to travel to Eastern Mass. to play a tournament game. It's the same problem for every small high school in the state and we'll just have to think outside the box."

Agawam High School Athletic Director David Stratton and South Hadley High School Athletic Director Eric Castonguay have both said they are opposed to the proposal. Castonguay believes the proposal only benefits the eastern part of the state. Stratton says the Western Mass. tournament is important to the region.

"Even though the sectional tournament would change the path to a state final to be more equitable," said Stratton. "I feel the sectional playoff process works."

No matter the outcome of the vote on Feb. 28, the landscape of high school sports in Western Massachusetts will probably be changing during the next couple of years.

State tournament information meeting scheduled for Feb. 24

REGION – The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Tournament Management Committee (TMC) has scheduled the regional meetings. These meetings will include an overview presentation of the Statewide Tournament Proposal provided by members of the MIAA TMC, followed by a question-and-answer session.

These informational meetings are a

great opportunity to enhance understanding of the Statewide Tournament Proposal and provide feedback to the TMC. The meetings are open to Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, Coaches, Officials and Media.

The Western Massachusetts meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 24 at Chicopee Comprehensive High School at 6 p.m.

MIAA Bracketology returning soon

REGION – March Madness is coming, and for the second straight year, Turley Sports will bring you "MIAA bracketology."

In two weeks, in our February 27 and 28 issues of all Turley Publications papers, the sports department will be presenting its picks for the MIAA Western Massachusetts Tournaments. There will be four brackets for boys basketball, and four brackets for girls basketball.

The brackets will detail our picks to make it all the way to our own sectional championships, held right at the famed Curry Hicks Cage on the campus of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Will we be right, or will we be wrong? Who knows. But we sincerely hope our readers enjoy following the progress of the Western Mass. tournament, that is one of the most popular tournaments that takes place in the year. Whether it is Divi-

sion 1 or Division 4, the basketball tournaments are some of most exciting action of the year.

The brackets we will be presenting in two weeks will reflect simple guesses on the part of Turley Sports with short commentary below each bracket to explain our brackets. We encourage you to compare our brackets to your own. We hope you enjoy watching the tournament unfold from Feb. 24 when the first round is scheduled to begin, all the way to Curry Hicks Cage on March 7 and 8.

The tournament brackets are scheduled to be released on Saturday, Feb. 22. The Turley Sports bracketology will be prepared the following day prior to the start of the tournament, and then will be available online through our turley.com website and will be published in the papers available Thursday, Feb. 27 and Friday, Feb. 28. Happy tournament to all!

BASKETBALL from page 9

three-year varsity player, and Jasmine Leyda (3 points), who's a four-year varsity player.

"Averie and Jasmine have given their heart and soul to our basketball program during the past couple years," said Chicopee head coach Steve Marcil. "I'm very proud of them and we're going to miss them next year."

The Lady Pacers, who had a 12-6 overall record, finished league play with a 5-3 record.

"We didn't qualify for the Western Mass. Division 1 tournament until the final game of the regular season last year," Marcil added. "We accomplished that goal a little bit earlier this year. Tonight's loss really doesn't hurt us very much. We know that we can compete against Minnechaug and we're hoping to play them again in the postseason tournament."

The Lady Pacers leading scorer was sophomore Yami Matos with 18 points. Sophomore Natalie Rodriguez scored ten of her 13 points during the second half. Freshman Ella Florence chipped in with eight points off the bench.

The five Lady Falcons seniors, who combined to score 42 points in the second game against Chicopee, are Madison Sanborn, Autumn Strange, Molly Cronin, Gabby Ofcarcik, and Lauren Barry, who'll be joining the women's lacrosse team at the University of Connecticut next year. They were scheduled to be honored before facing league rival Westfield at home in the final regular season game on Wednesday night.

"It's really exciting to win the league title again this year," Ofcarcik said. "Everyone has worked very hard and we've been playing very well together as a team this year."

Ofcarcik, who's hoping to play college basketball next year, scored eight of

her 11 points during the second half.

Strange scored a team-high 12 points and Barry also reached double figures with 11 points.

Barry was credited with nine rebounds, two assists, one blocked shot, and one steal before leaving the game with a right ankle injury with 6:18 remaining in the fourth quarter.

"Lauren is one of our leading scorers and rebounders," Giuggio said. "We're hoping that she isn't injured that badly and hopefully she'll be back very soon."

The Lady Pacers took the lead for the final time at 48-47 with 3:17 left in regulation when freshman Alana Smith (5 points) made a free throw attempt.

A lay-up by Ofcarcik and a pair of made free throws by Cronin (6 points) gave the Lady Falcons a 51-48 advantage less than 30 seconds later.

With her team holding a slim 51-50 lead with 1:05 left, Minnechaug sophomore Hallie O'Toole buried a 3-pointer from the left side making it a four-point game. They were the only points that O'Toole scored in the game.

"That was a huge 3-pointer by Hallie at the end of the game," Ofcarcik said. "I'm very happy for her."

Ofcarcik made three foul shots during the final 20 seconds sealing the Lady Falcons victory.

Following a very close first quarter, which saw a couple of lead changes, the Lady Falcons built a 27-17 lead on a Barry jumper from above the foul line late in the second quarter.

The Lady Pacers, who were trailing 33-26 at halftime, scored seven straight points at the end of the third quarter. An inside hoop by Matos gave the home team a 41-40 lead with 25 seconds left in the quarter. The final eight minutes of the contest was also very close. The Lady Falcons did manage to take a five-point lead during the last minute of the game.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

This calendar is intended to promote free events in Chicopee or events directly benefiting a Chicopee-based nonprofit organization. To place an event on the calendar, email the listing with date, time, place, organization hosting and a brief description of what will be happening to chicopeeregister@turley.com.

SAVE THE DATE

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE. Trinity Episcopal Church, 27 Streiber Drive, will hold an Ash Wednesday service, Wednesday, Feb. 26 at noon and 6 p.m. Both services will be held with imposition of ashes. Ashes to Go will be offered from 6 to 8 p.m. For information and exact location, call 533-7872.

FISH FRY. St. Stanislaus School announced an Ash Wednesday Fish Fryday to take place Wednesday, Feb. 26 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the school, 534 Front St. Tickets are available at a cost of \$9 and are available at the door or from the school. For more information, call the school at 592-5135.

THURSDAY, FEB. 27

HEALING SERVICE. A healing service at Trinity Episcopal Church, 27 Streiber Drive, will take place Thursday, Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

SHINING STARS GALA. The Greater Chicopee Chamber of Commerce will hold its 35th anniversary Shining Stars Awards Gala Friday, March 6 at 6 p.m. at the Castle of Knights, 1599 Memorial Drive. All are welcome to celebrate the 2020 recipients, which are Business of the Year: Caolo & Bieniek Associates, Citizen of the Year: Ruth Willemain of Harmony House of Western Mass., Nonprofit of the Year: Roca, and Volunteer of the Year: Youssef Fadel.

Cocktail hour begins at 6 p.m. followed by the program and awards at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

TEACUP RAFFLE. St. Stanislaus School announced a Silent Auction and Teacup Raffle to take place Saturday, March 14 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the school, 534 Front St. Admission is \$5 and free for children younger than 4-years-old. For more information, call the school at 592-5135.

SATURDAY, MAY 30

RECYCLING AND CAN DRIVE. The St. Stanislaus School Student Council will hold an Electronics Recycling and Can and Bottle Drive Saturday, May 30 from

8 a.m. to noon at the school, 534 Front St. Folks may deliver their small electronic devices and appliances (no large appliances accepted) as well as redeemable bottles and cans as part of a collection. For more information, call the school at 592-5135.

SUNDAY, MAY 31

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING. The 25th annual St. Stanislaus School Golf Outing will tee-off Sunday, May 31 at the Chicopee Country Club. Golf begins with lunch and registration at 11:45 a.m. For more information and registration forms, contact Cheryl Pereira at cpereira@saintstansschool.org or Kasia Manning at kmanning@saintstansschool.org.

ONGOING

AMERICAN BOSCH SENIOR TRAVEL CLUB meets every third Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the American Legion Post 452, 37 Exchange St. All are welcome.

AMVETS12 offers dinners twice a month at the AMVETS Post 12, 754 Montgomery St. The second Thursday of each month features a prime rib dinner served from 4 to 6 p.m. Tickets, at a cost of \$13, are required. The third Thursday of the month is a spaghetti dinner from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Tickets are not required, but cost is \$5. Post membership is not required. For more information, call the post at 413-588-8060. No spaghetti dinners will be served in August.

BUILDING BRIDGES VETERANS INITIATIVE offers a free weekly luncheon for veterans at the Chicopee Lodge of Elks, 431 Granby Road, from noon to 1:30 p.m. All veterans are welcome.

CHICOPEE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES is compiling a list of Purple Heart recipients connected to the city of Chicopee. Those who have received the medal or who know someone who has are encouraged to contact the Department of Veterans Services at 413-594-3470.

CHICOPEE FALLS WOMAN'S CLUB meets every third Thursday of the month (except June, July and August) at 11 a.m. at American Legion Post 452, 37 Exchange St. Come join us with our charity endeavors.

CHICOPEE VILLAGE offers drop-in story times each Friday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the facility located at 68 Eastern Drive. Each week features an activity and free snacks for children ages 5 and under. For more information, call Maritza at 413-536-0363 ext. 5643.

HOLYOKE-CHICOPEE FAMILY & COMMUNITY PROGRAM invites folks to a free parent social every Thursday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the WIC office, 35 Mt. Carmel Ave. in Chicopee.

The “Baby and Me” program is suitable for those with children ages newborn to 2-years-old, with opportunities for reading, learning and play time. Ages and stages questionnaires and child development information will be available to parents weekly.

For more information or to register, call Maritza at 413-536-0363 ext. 5643.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 27 Streiber Drive. Sunday service at 9 a.m. with Holy Communion followed by coffee hour and socializing. All are welcome.

ST. JOAN OF ARC SCHOOL, 587 Grattan St., invites interested families to visit the school during Tuesday Tours. Visitors may tour the school from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. No appointment is necessary. SJA School welcomes students in pre-kindergarten (3-4 year olds) to grade 8. Those in need of a different day may call 533-1475 to schedule a tour.

HOLYOKE CHICOPEE COORDINATED FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT holds a free drop-in playgroup, Learning Through Play for children birth to age 5 and a caregiver on Mondays from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Chicopee Parks and Recreation Building, 687 Front St. Each week offers learning activities, songs, rhymes and stories. For more information, call CFCE at 413-536-0363.

CHICOPEE LINDY AND BLUES TUESDAYS 7-10 p.m. Weekly swing and blues dance. Beginner lesson at 7 p.m. Social dancing 8-10 p.m. Held in the community hall (back entrance) of Christ's Community Church, 103 Springfield St. More information at www.meetup.com/Chicopee-Lindy-and-Blues.

THE GREATER CHICOPEE AREA COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND is seeking members. There are no auditions to join the band, but prospective members should be able to read music and own a concert band instrument (flute, clarinet, etc.). There are no fees to join. The band meets Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Chicopee Comprehensive High School band room. Please visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ChicopeeAreaBand) to learn more.

SHARE YOUR SIGHT. Volunteer to read, shop or walk with a blind or vision impaired person in your community. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired at 1-888-613-2777 for details.

Photo exhibit focuses on Vietnam

SPRINGFIELD – The Valley Photo Center will host a meet the artist reception from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20 for it February show titled “Vietnam: Then and Now” at the gallery on the upper level of Tower Square, 1500 Main St. in Springfield.

The exhibit, reception and refreshments are free and all are welcome to attend. As a bonus, the gallery next door, Art for the Soul, will also hold a reception for its current exhibit at the same time so guests may see two different shows, enjoy refreshments, and meet the artists.

The Valley Photo show features photographs from the collections of Dave Tela, who served as a U.S. Army Cobra helicopter pilot, and Jim Cryan, who also served in the U.S. Army in the Vietnam War as an enlisted man in an aerial recon-

naissance unit.

It also features recent photographs from Cryan's collection of photos from his return trips to the country as well as a digital show by Phil Mardoc from his trips to Vietnam in the spring of 2018 and 2019.

The collection of photographs, albums and digital images will be on display until Friday, Feb. 28 Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Valley Photo Center is a 501c3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate its members and the public in the Pioneer Valley about the art and science of photography to bring about a greater appreciation for photography. Membership and more information about the exhibit and the VPC is available online at www.thevalleyphotocenter.com.

Baystate Wing offers heart lecture for area women Feb. 27

PALMER – Area women are invited to attend “Heart to Heart,” an educational seminar offered by Grace LaValley, Thursday, Feb. 27, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Baystate Wing Hospital in the Snow Conference Room.

“In so many ways the heart of a woman is strong and resilient, yet heart disease is the number one health risk for women,” said Susan Fontaine, senior coordinator of Loyalty Programs at Baystate Health. “Grace will offer information about heart health, explain the signs and symptoms as well as treatment for heart disease.”

“You are never too young or too old to learn about your risk factors for heart disease and do something to minimize

them,” said LaValley, who joins Dr. Brian Laliberte, chair of cardiology, Dr. Zachary Zichittella and Gina Zichittella, nurse practitioner, providing comprehensive cardiology care at Baystate Cardiology located at Baystate Wing Hospital, 40 Wright St. in Palmer.

The Heart to Heart seminar is sponsored by the Baystate Health Every Woman, a free program that offers the latest women's health information from physicians, nurses, and other medical professionals.

The Heart to Heart seminar is offered at no cost and a light dinner will be provided. Registration is required by calling 413-794-5200 or visiting hearttoheartbwh.eventbrite.com

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Chicopee Register, please email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

Babysitters Academy to take place April 21

WARE – Baystate Mary Lane will sponsor a Babysitters Academy in April to ready area youth for spring and summer babysitting responsibilities. The one day program will take place Tuesday, April 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Main Conference Room located on the second floor.

The Babysitters Academy is a certified babysitter program for young adults ages 11 ½ to 16. The Tuesday session offers potential babysitters instruction in baby care, first aid, CPR, fire safety, home security, child behavior and acci-

dent prevention.

Participants are given a course booklet containing helpful tips and other information, and will receive a graduation certificate upon completion of the course. The program is offered by the Parenting Education Program at Baystate Medical Center. There is a \$75 fee per student, then \$30 for each additional family or group member. Space is limited. For more information or to register, visit baystate-health.org/parented and click on Infant and Child Care or call 413-794-5515.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 6:30 PM** in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under 275-50 C (1) & C (2) for the purpose of an accessory sign for proposed automobile service station and a waiver of the setback requirements from 25 feet to 5 feet located at a portion of 0 Memorial Drive (Parcel ID 425-38). Applicant – Robert Ladas, Metrolube Enterprises, Inc., 929 Boston Post Rd East, Malborough, MA 01752.

Information - Office of the City Council (413) 594-1435. 2/13, 2/20/2020

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 6:30 PM** in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under 275-67 & 275-67 (K) (3)(b) for the purpose of the construction of a proposed multi-family development and waiver of parking requirement from 88 to 75 spaces located at 0 Oak Street (Parcel ID 147-5H). Applicant – Craig Authier, 1421 Granby Rd., Chicopee, MA 01020.

Information - Office of the City Council (413) 594-1435. 2/13, 2/20/2020

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 6:30 PM** in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under 275-58 for the purpose of ground sign waiver of 25 feet setback to +/- 1.9 feet located at 30 St. James Avenue. Applicant – Ning Sun, 30 St. James Ave., Chicopee, MA 01020.

Information - Office of the City Council (413) 594-1435. 2/13, 2/20/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Hampden, ss., Western Division Housing Court, Docket No. 19-CV-958 City of Chicopee v.

The Heirs and Assigns of Genevieve A Taylor SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

To: **The Heirs and Assigns of Genevieve A Taylor; Debra Burns, Nancy Provost, Lori Buzzard, Scott Taylor**

A Petition to Enforce the State Sanitary Code has been filed in the Western Division Housing Court concerning the property located at 54 Alfred Street, Chicopee, Massachusetts.

Any person having a connection to this property or information as to the whereabouts of the owner is instructed to contact the Chicopee Law Department, 17 Springfield Street, Chicopee, MA 01013, in writing, **no later than March 12, 2020.** 2/20/2020

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 6:30 PM** in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under 275-52 for the purpose of gentle non-force chiropractic care holistic counsel – yoga, nutrition, activity, rehab, relaxation approximately 3-5 days per month located at 70 Waite Ave. Applicant – Ruth Ziemba, 12304 Santa Monica Blvd, Suite 216, Los Angeles, CA 90025.

Information - Office of the City Council (413) 594-1435. 2/13, 2/20/2020

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 6:30 PM** in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front

Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under 275-30 for the purpose of keeping a storage POD in driveway for a period of one year (need basement waterproofed after house getting frozen pipes – late oil delivery – storage of books and clothes) located at 104 Ann Street. Applicant – Halyna & Tom Adamchak, 104 Ann St., Chicopee, MA 01020.

Information - Office of the City Council (413) 594-1435. 2/13, 2/20/2020

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 6:30 PM** in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under 275-62 (B) for the purpose of warehousing and storage not to exceed 200,000 square feet and 6,500 storage units located at 165 Front St. Applicant – 4 Perkins, LLC, Aaron Papowitz, 307 W 38th St., Suite 1414, New York, NY 10038.

Information - Office of the City Council (413) 594-1435. 2/13, 2/20/2020

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by **Interstate Towing, Inc.** pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on **March 6, 2020** at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

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Boynton Construction
156 Waldoboro Rd
Washington, ME 04574

1995 GMC SIERRA C3500 HD

VIN: 1GDKC34F6SJ526996
Lavature Electric
PO Box 448
Ludlow, MA 01056

2005 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER

VIN: 1GNDDT13S952293542
Diosa Sierra
24 Ashley St
New Bedford, MA 02744

2005 SUBARU LEGACY OUTBACK

VIN: 4S4BP61C957377047
Carlos Dejesus Rosa
195 Laconia St
Springfield, MA 01129

2006 FORD F350 SUPER DUTY

VIN: 1FDWF37536ED81541
Lavature Electric
100 State St #123
Ludlow, MA 01056

2007 LEXUS ES 350

VIN: JTHBJ46G772062980
Ahmed Mohammed
1298 Hartford Tpke Apt 7D
North Haven, CT 06473

2009 HONDA PILOT EXL

VIN: 5FN9YF48669B017627
Matthew Sears
19 High St
Spencer, MA 01562
2/20, 2/27, 3/05/2020

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 6:30 PM** in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Ordinance Amendment- Add to Chapter 275-40 E (5) "Commercial Use Parking Restrictions." Full text available in the City Council Office. Applicant: Ward 7 Councilor William Courchesne, City Council Office, City Hall Annex, 274 Front St., Chicopee, MA 01013

Ordinance Amendment – Delete in its entirety Chapter 275-66 A and insert revised Chapter 275-66 A Burnett Road. Full text available in City Council Office. Applicant: Ward 6 Councilor Derek Dobosz, City Council Office, City Hall Annex, 274 Front St., Chicopee, MA 01013

Information - Office of the City Council (413) 594-1435. 2/13, 2/20/2020



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The UMass-Amherst Symphony Orchestra is set to take the stage March 11 in the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall.

UMass Symphony, Opus One to perform in March

AMHERST - On Wednesday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m. in Bezanson Recital Hall, the University of Massachusetts Amherst Department of Music and Dance will present a concert by Opus One Chamber Orchestra, the University's primary string chamber ensemble.


Opus One is a faculty-student collaboration coordinated by Elizabeth Chang. The program will feature movements from Schubert's "Quintet in C major," Mendelssohn's "Octet," and the string orchestra version of Beethoven's "String Quartet No. 16, Op. 135," the composer's last major work.

A week later, the department will present a performance by the UMass Amherst Symphony Orchestra and director Morihiko Nakahara on Wednesday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine

Arts Center Concert Hall. The program will include Dvorák's "Symphony No. 8 in G Major," Khachaturian's "Masquerade Suite," (led by graduate conductor Asieh Mayhar), and Jennifer Higdon's "Low Brass Concerto" featuring music faculty Greg Spiridopoulos, trombone; John Bottomley, tuba; plus guest trombonist Don Lucas from Boston University.

Ticket prices are \$10, \$5 for students, seniors and UMass Amherst employees, and free for UMass students. Tickets may be purchased at the Fine Arts Center Box Office, by phone at 413-545-2411, or online at www.fineartscenter.com/musicanddance. For the March 4 Opus One performance, ticket purchases at the door can only be handled via cash or personal check.

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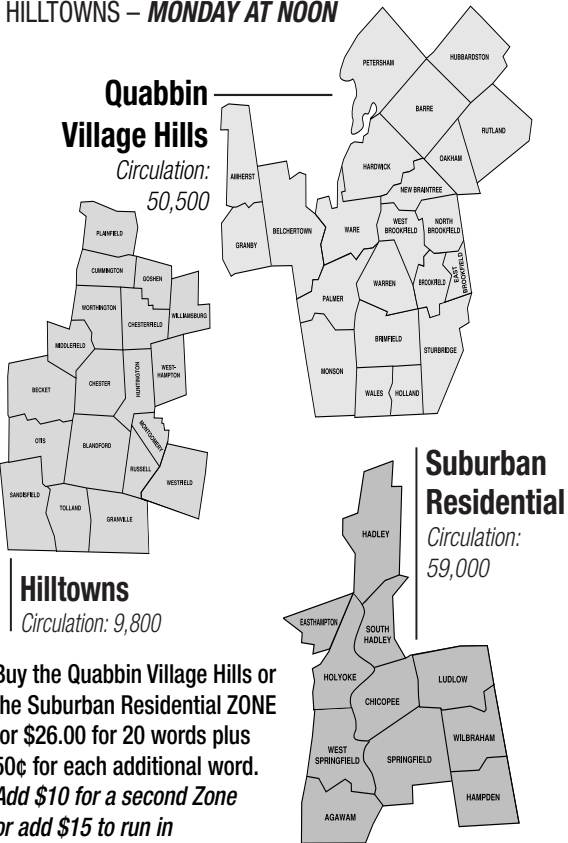
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This part-time (up to 20 hrs./week), grant funded, temporary, non-benefited position will help train elders and individuals with disabilities to gain greater independence through access and use of fixed-route public transportation. The trainer will conduct needs assessments, develop training plans and conduct individual and small group training sessions to help individuals learn to use fixed-route bus service. Review detailed job description and qualification requirements under Careers at www.pvta.com. \$16.00/hour. Please upload cover letter and resume via our website or mail to: PVTA, Attn: HR Manager, 2808 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01107. EEO/ AA/DF

MONSON COUNCIL ON AGING
seeking baker. Prepare and coordinate continental breakfast twice a week. Prepare baked goods for meals. 12+ hours a week. Minimum wage. Send cover letter and resume to 106 Main Street, Monson, MA

HELP WANTED

PARK MAINTENANCE AND GROUNDSKEEPER Position (seasonal/part-time)

Applicant will be responsible for general maintenance of Memorial Park and baseball fields as well as the baseball/ soccer fields at Thornton Burgess. Job description and application forms can be found at <https://www.hampdenma.gov/town-administrator/pages/board-openings-job-postings>. Please submit to Hampden Parks and Recreation 625 Main Street, Hampden MA 01036. **(413)566-2151 x108**.

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Interested persons should email RESUME to edddriver92@gmail.com At least, RESUME must state applicants contact info, age, sex, marital status, height, weight, health status with documentation, current and recent employment and wages received, names and contact info for 2 or more references, and QUALIFICATIONS TO BE A HOME AID TO ME. Most qualified applicants will be invited for an interview and home visit within two weeks of receipt of their emails.

SHARED LIVING-

seeking families to share their home with individuals with developmental disabilities.
Call **413-734-2493** for more information.

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM P/T ADMIN. ASSISTANT - PLANNING & ZONING

Looking for a reliable Part-Time Administrative Assistant - Planning & Zoning. For application and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Application deadline 3/13/2020 at 4:30 PM. EOE

HELP WANTED

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413.279.1701

Email Correspondence & Resumes Can be Directed to: kris.barthelette@proscansolutions.com Joe.kelly@proshred.com

Interviews Will Be Conducted by Appointment Only

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REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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FOR RENT



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for a 35 hour work week to assist in the administration and management of all programs of the housing authority. Interaction with residents, vendors, and maintenance personnel, as well as local and state officials is required. Responsibilities include rent collection, leasing, maintenance of the wait lists, accounts payable and receivable, work orders, dispute resolution, re-certifications of rent, as well as other tasks as assigned by the Executive Director. The successful applicant will have good oral and written communication skills, as well as organizational and computer skills. Prior experience in housing or property management in a private, state or federal housing office, as well as knowledge of DHCD or HUD housing regulations is a plus. Salary is based on experience.

Send resume with cover letter to:
ADMINISTRATIVE SEARCH
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IN THE CITY

COLLEEN from page 1

Bay Path University; Mackenzie Feeley, 17, Chicopee Comprehensive High School; Taylor Gawron, 17, Chicopee High School; Makayla Hammon, 17, Chicopee High School; Kimberlee Harrington, 18, Chicopee Comprehensive High School; Makenzie Hernandez, 17, Chicopee High School; Meghan Kalbaugh, 18, American International College; Karoline Klaus, 19, Springfield Technical Community College; Erin McCormick, 17, Chicopee High School; Joanna Mienkowski, 17, Chicopee High School; Caitlin Mogilka, 19, graduate of Chicopee Comprehensive High School; Hailey Prive, 17, Chicopee High School; Hannah Provost, 17, Chicopee Comprehensive High School; Tatyana Santiago, 17, Chicopee High School; Lauren Tilbury, 17, Chicopee Comprehensive High School; Sophie Warren, 17, Chicopee Comprehensive High School; and Natalia Wloch, 17, Chicopee Comprehensive High School.

“Next Saturday at the ball, the girls are separated from the audience, and dinner is served. When the program starts, and the young ladies will be introduced one by one,” said Rodowicz.

“Basically, they’ll have time where they go up to the stage individually; their biographies are read. It probably lasts a couple minutes, and they also receive another score from the judges; the judges will be watching them. Each girl has a few minutes in front of the judges, and that score will be added to their interview score,” she continued.

A series of musical performances and entertainment acts will immediately precede the lineup. Several special guests and local elected officials will also address the audience.

During that time, judges will narrow the field to five finalists; each young woman selected will represent the city as part of the Colleen Court. Between 9 and 9:30 p.m., the Grand Colleen will be announced.

“Then, when all five girls are finished, the judges retire again; from there, they choose the finalist. They’ll come out and hand the results to the emcee. The emcee will announce the Colleen, and the other four girls are automatically her court, which is nice; they all get to ride the float,” said Rodowicz.

Members of the Chicopee St. Patrick’s Parade Committee have already circled March 22 on their calendars; the day marks the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Chicopee’s float will immediately follow Holyoke’s floats on the parade route.

“We’re the first city this year after Holyoke; Holyoke has the first four divisions,” said Rodowicz. “All the other cities around rotate after Holyoke. Last year, we were Division F; this year, we’re Division E. Next year, we go back to the end.”

Over the next 12 months, the Colleen Court will serve as ambassadors, representing the city of Chicopee at a number of local and regional events. Rodowicz elaborated further.

“We are in the Chicopee Memorial Day Parade in our float, we’re in the East Longmeadow Fourth of July Parade and we are in the Big E Chicopee Day Parade. The girls are able to ride our beautiful float,” which is currently under construction, said Rodowicz.

All are welcome to attend the Coronation Ball. Tickets are \$45 and must be purchased in advance. Email chicopee2@charter.net for more information. There will be no ticket sales at the door.



PHOTOS COURTESY JOEL RODOWICZ

Chicopee’s Lillian Doherty, Melissa Carson, Natalia Wloch, Mackenzie Feeley and Julianna DeGray are among the contestants for this year’s Colleen. The Colleen Contest and Coronation Ball will take place Feb. 22 at the Castle of Knights.



From left Lauren Tilbury, Haley Prive, Joanna Mienkowski and Erin McCormick pose as contestants for the annual Chicopee Colleen Contest. The Colleen and her Court will be named Feb. 22 at the Castle of Knights.



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